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ADDRESS

GENERAL L. K. TRUSCOTT, JR.

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY, NORWICH UNIVERSITY, 7 JUNE 1958

Colonel Prince: . . . . Gentlemen:

It is a great honor to be here on this occasion when you gentlemen are about to receive commissions in the armed forces of our country. It is a very special privilege for me to welcome you into one of the noblest of all professions -- the profession of arms -- and into one of the proudest and strongest of all brotherhoods -- the brotherhood of commissioned officers. I should like to emphasize why we hold the profession of arms and the brotherhood of officers in such high esteem and to offer you one or two suggestions.

No profession is more dedicated to unselfish service or holds to higher ideals of duty, honor, country and of courage than the profession of arms. It has been so throughout history. Men of this profession have ever been willing to die if need be to preserve for others things dearer than life itself. Just a few days ago I stood on the great battlefield of Anzio. There over the graves of eight thousand Americans who still rest there in foreign soil I delivered the Memorial Day address.

I was reminded that long ago One said, "Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friend." I also remembered that in hundreds of other spots all over the world comrades were rendering honors to others fallen in the country's service. They were our fathers, brothers, comrades, friends. They upheld the high ideals and standards of the profession of arms. They gave their lives for their country. Truly the profession of arms is a noble and dedicated one.

It is a particular pleasure to welcome you into the brotherhood of officers, for we have something in common. We begin our careers as second lieutenants with commissions in the Officers Reserve Corps - most of you at least. But you have one decided advantage over me. I was commissioned after ninety days' training in the First Officers Training Camp during the First World War. You are being commissioned after four years of academic and military training at a great military university with academic and military standards unexcelled by any other in our country. That is a fact in which you can take great pride, but it is also one that imposes a great responsibility upon you.

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I need not remind you that technical and scientific developments are making war more complicated and difficult with every passing day. Far greater knowledge on the part of officers is required by the weapons of today than was ever required during the last World War -- in my own time. You are fitted to meet that challenge. The one factor in war that does not change is man. The principles of leadership that applied in my day -- and have always applied -- will apply in yours. And let me tell you, it is the leadership of officers -- of the wonderful brotherhood of officers -- that has held men to the high dedication of duty, honor, country - even to the death. So I can say to you there is no brotherhood with stronger bonds. None has higher standards.

As a final word, let me repeat. I am proud to welcome you to one of the noblest and most dedicated of all professions - the profession of arms. Wear your uniform with pride as have those before you. Hold to the high principles you have been taught here. Take special pride in the fact that you are now members of the great brotherhood of commissioned officers. Mark well its high ideals and live up to its high standards. There is no stronger bond than the ideal of duty, honor, country, which binds that brotherhood. I welcome you to membership.

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